

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 35249**Name:** Environmental law**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 4.5**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1303 - Degree in Law	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1303 - Degree in Law	Environmental law	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

REVUELTA PEREZ INMACULADA

CERNADA BADIA ROSA

SUMMARY

The Environmental Law course is one of the optional courses within the Public Law programme of the Degree in Law at the University of Valencia. It is taught in the fourth year, when students already have knowledge of Administrative Law. It is assigned 4.5 credits.

The aim of the Environmental Law subject is to provide students with broad knowledge of environmental law, specifically to familiarise them with the origins and evolution of the discipline and its foundations (the environment in the European Union legal system and its principles, constitutional recognition of the right to environmental protection, distribution of powers between public administrations and types of legal techniques) as well as the main public legal instruments for environmental protection existing in our law (state and regional law), namely the environmental impact assessment of projects, plans and programmes, the integrated control of industrial emissions and polluting activities, the environmental liability system, the planning and management of protected areas, and sectoral legislation (noise, air, water, waste, etc.).

Through this course, students will gain practical experience in environmental law by analysing the most relevant legislation and case law, both from the Court of Justice of the European Union and from our courts, and by solving practical cases.



PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are no requirements, but it is considered practically essential for the proper understanding of the course to have previously taken the courses: Administrative Law I and Administrative Law II. It is recommended to have taken the course Legal Institutions of the European Union.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1303 - Degree in Law

Be able to apply constitutional principles and values, the respect for human rights, with special attention to equality between men and women, sustainability and the culture of peace as working tools in the interpretation of the legal system.

Be able to read and interpret legal texts.

Be able to use information and communication technology to obtain and select legal information.

Be able to use legal sources (legal, jurisprudential and doctrinal).

Know, understand and know how to apply the interrelation between law and other non-legal disciplines.

Know the content and application of each of the branches of the legal system.

Recognise the importance of law as a system for regulating social relations.

Understand the legal system as unitary and have an interdisciplinary perspective of legal problems.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Fundamentals of Environmental Law

1) Historical evolution; 2) Principles; 3) Environmental protection in European Union Law; 4) Environmental protection in the Spanish Constitution: a) Article 45. Meaning and scope; b) Distribution of powers and



coordination of legal systems. State, regional and local powers; 3) Types of public law techniques for environmental protection: regulation, information, authorisations, prior notifications and responsible declarations, planning, inspections, sanctions, among others.

2. Environmental assessments

1) Environmental assessment: origin and characteristics; 2) European, state and regional regulations; 3) Types of environmental assessments; 4) Project assessment: a) Scope of application; b) Procedure; c) The Environmental Impact Statement and judicial review; d) Competence issues; 5) Assessment of plans and programmes: a) Scope of application; b) Procedure; c) Strategic environmental statement and legal effects.

3. Integrated control of industrial emissions and polluting activities

1) Applicable legislation; 2) Scope of application; 3) Techniques: a) Integrated environmental authorisation and environmental licence; b) Discipline: Inspections and self-monitoring; c) Penalties; d) Emissions inventories; 4) The best available techniques rule; 5) Authorisation procedure. Connection with the Emissions Trading Scheme; 6) Regional regulations: specific features.

4. Climate Change and Energy Transition

1) Introduction and legal framework; 2) Energy transition: Principles and objectives; 3) Causes and effects of climate change; 4) Strategies; 5) Fair energy transition.

5. Environmental liability

1) Environmental crimes; 2) Administrative liability for environmental damage; 3) Civil liability and the environment.

6. Sectoral environmental legislation (I): Air and noise pollution control

1) Introduction; 2) Applicable regulations; 3) Connection with fundamental rights: the case law of the ECHR; 4) Protective techniques: a) Quality assessment and management; b) Emission prevention: establishment of standards and authorisation.

7. Sectoral environmental legislation (II)

1) Legal protection of water (continental and maritime); 2) Protection and integrated management of coastal areas; 3) Protected natural areas and biodiversity protection; 4) Protection of forests.

WORKLOAD

**PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	45,00
Total hours	45,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	15,00
Independent study and work	24,50
Preparation of lessons	11,50
Preparation for assessment activities	16,50
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	67,50

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching is structured as follows:

- Theoretical classes, following the participative model.
- Practical classes. Several practical cases on the application of the legislation throughout the course will be presented and resolved in small groups. At the end of each session, they will be discussed and evaluated.
- Tutorials: these will serve to guide students, determine how the course is working and resolve specific doubts.

EVALUATION

The course will be assessed using the following assessment tools:

- A single final theory exam: 50% of the overall mark. Students must pass the final exam with a mark of 5 out of 10 in order to be assessed using the other assessment tools.
- Continuous assessment:
 - Practical work, attendance and participation: 20% of the overall mark.
 - Group work: 20% of the overall mark.
 - Seminar (complementary activity): 10% of the overall mark.

Continuous assessment (practical work, group work and seminar) will account for 50% of the final mark,



but will only be taken into account if the student passes the final theory test. By its nature, continuous assessment is not recoverable. However, students who are unable to take part in continuous assessment and notify the lecturer in good time (at least two months before the final exam) will be assessed by means of a final theoretical-practical exam.

Regardless of the general assessment system established for all students (written or oral exam), the teacher responsible for the subject may, in the annex to the teaching guide, determine the possibility of justifying a change to the type of final exam when forced to hold it on a different date to the official one, in accordance with the rules laid down for the case of overlapping exams in the Regulations for Assessment and Marking Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at the University of Valencia, or for any other cause established by regulation (e.g. cases of justified force majeure). In these cases, the new exam must be of the same level of difficulty and rigour as that taken by the rest of the group.

Students who have followed the continuous assessment and have been assessed, in the event of not taking the final exam on the official exam date (both in 1st and 2nd call), will obtain the grade NOT PRESENTED.

REFERENCES

- ALONSO GARCÍA, María Consuelo. *El régimen jurídico de la contaminación atmosférica y acústica*. Marcial Pons, 1995.
- BETANCOR, Andrés. *Instituciones de Derecho Ambiental*. La Ley, 2014.
- DOPAZO FRAGUÍO, M^a Pilar. *Derecho administrativo del Medio ambiente: temas y prácticas de actualidad jurídica*. Servicio de Publicaciones de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2018.
- ESTEVE PARDO, José. *Derecho del medio ambiente*. Marcial Pons, 5th edition, 2022.
- FERNANDEZ DE LA GATTA, Dionisio. *Sistema jurídico-administrativo de protección del medio ambiente*. Ratio Legis, 11th edition, 2023.
- GALÁN VIOQUE, Roberto; MONTOYA MARTÍN, Encarnación; CARRILLO DONAIRE, Juan Antonio. *Lecciones de Derecho Administrativo: Volume III. Regulación económica, Derecho de la ordenación del territorio y Derecho urbanístico y Derecho ambiental*. Tecnos, 4th edition, 2025.
- LOZANO CUTANDA, Blanca. *Derecho Ambiental y Climático*. Dykinson, 2nd edition, 2023.
- LOZANO CUTANDA, Blanca and others. *Evaluaciones de impacto ambiental y autorización ambiental integrada*. La Ley, 2012.
- LOZANO CUTANDA, Blanca; SÁNCHEZ LAMELAS, Ana; PERSONAS GARCÍA, Juan José. *Evaluaciones de impacto ambiental y autorización ambiental integrada: doctrina, textos legales anotados y jurisprudencia*. Wolters Kluwer España, 2012.
- REVUELTA PÉREZ, Inmaculada. *El control integrado de la contaminación en el Derecho español*. Marcial Pons, 2003.
- REVUELTA PÉREZ, Inmaculada. "Mejores técnicas disponibles: un singular sistema de regulación ambiental". *Revista Catalana de Dret Ambiental*, vol. 10, n. 1, 2019.
- REVUELTA PÉREZ, Inmaculada (Dir.). *La regulación de las energías renovables a la luz del Derecho de la Unión Europea*. Aranzadi, 2017.
- SANTAMARÍA ARINAS, René Javier. *Curso básico de Derecho Ambiental General*. Instituto Vasco de Administraciones Públicas, 2nd edition, 2019.
- TORRES LÓPEZ, M. Asunción; ARANA GARCÍA, Estanislao. *Derecho ambiental*. Tecnos, 4th edition, 2024.



- VALENCIA MARTÍN, Germán. "La responsabilidad medioambiental". *Revista General de Derecho Administrativo*, n. 25, 2010.
- VALENCIA MARTÍN, Germán. *Autorización ambiental integrada y licencias municipales*. Thomson Reuters Aranzadi, 2017.
- Regardless of the edition and year of publication indicated, all references should be understood as referring to the latest edition of the corresponding manuals.